

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1901.

Vol. 34, No. 140,000

JUNE CIRCULATION.

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live in time to participate. Feeble as the hopes were, a charm attached to the national birthday that made the anticipations seem possible of fulfillment.

Instead of relief coming on that day, the routine of the siege continued. The men and women had their menu of horse meat, rice and brown bread. As the American flag over the legation gate was shot down by bullets from the Chinese, the sailor guards speedily replaced it on the staff. It was indeed a dreary Fourth for both the besieged and their friends.

Relief did not come until August 14. The forty days of waiting were dreary and sleepless. Time and again did the foreigners think that help was about to arrive. The information that they received was every whit as unreliable as that sent to the allies.

The siege of Peking is now hardly more than a memory. Those who were in Peking will celebrate at home. The day is a distinct improvement over that of last year.

FOURTH OF JULY, 1901.

On this day 125 years ago the American Declaration of Independence was signed and the foundation of the world's greatest Government was thereby proclaimed in the finest utterance known in the history of nations.

The anniversary is a fit time for sober contemplation of American policies and for estimating the maintained strength of American faith in the creed upon which our fabric of government rests. There is no national policy which may be approved with safety by the American people if such policy is hostile to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence. There is no surrender of any element of that spirit possible without danger to the life of the great Republic which sprang into being on the day of the Signing of the Declaration.

Within the past three years, for the first time in its history, the United States Government has been conducted along lines which constitute a repudiation of the splendid truth that all just governments must derive their power from the consent of the governed. The doctrine has been denied and overruled. The American Constitution, a product of the spirit which created the Declaration, has been violated by Congress in order that this truth should not prevail to control American action. The termination of the era of constitutional liberty in this country is threatened because of this denial of the right of others to the liberty proclaimed by the Declaration as the birthright of all men. Congress and the Supreme Court have alike failed to prevent this abandonment of the American creed. The constitutional safeguard has been removed. A President of the United States today possesses a power of absolutism which may not be viewed by thoughtful Americans without the profoundest disturbance of confidence in the permanence of liberty on the Western Continent.

On this one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence it is advisable that Americans face the truth of American conditions. A return to the principles upon which their Government is founded is still possible. If there is to be a further divergence from the true American faith such return will soon be forever impossible. It is for the American people to make the choice while the privilege of choosing is still theirs. The choice is one between a Republic and an Empire. Which shall it be? You should ask yourself this question to-day, the Fourth of July, 1901, and answer it as becomes an American who is still faithful to the truths announced in the American Declaration of Independence.

VITAL EDUCATION.

In the plan of Professor Langley to arrange a special exhibit for children in the Smithsonian Institution there is so much promise of practical educational benefit as to call for the heartiest popular and governmental support. It is not easy to overestimate the value of so complete and satisfying a museum for children as is possible to the vast resources of the Smithsonian Institution. Such an exhibit may be made profoundly interesting and entertaining as well as instructive. Indeed, it is by means of its initial attraction as an entertainment that the display would be most certain of proving educational in the end.

There is a gratifying proof that this truth is recognized by the authorities now arranging for the children's museum. They propose to label all the exhibits with their common names only, to supplement each with printed statements of important facts bearing upon them, and in some cases, as of the display of birds, to make it an exhibit of actual life, the living birds being shown in the surroundings natural to them. In this manner the new department will be made of irresistible attractiveness. Professor Langley has fallen upon a brilliant idea. He should be encouraged to its prompt and adequate development into established fact. The educational value of interesting children vitally in the study of such treasures as are owned by the Smithsonian Institution will not be ignored by thoughtful students of the problem of education.

OIL FOR FUEL.

Already certain points in the South are beginning to feel the beneficent effects of the discovery of fuel oil in Texas. Predictions are being fulfilled with a quickness that is little less than surprising. For instance, one railroad that furnishes coal to Mobile has reduced the price from \$1.75 to \$1.10 a ton. New Orleans has had the price of Alabama coal reduced 60 and 65 cents a ton by the competition of Texas oil. Every point in the South where Texas oil has gone has received reductions in the price of coal.

These figures verify the bright prophecies that were made when the gushers were discovered. Though a temporary loss may be felt by mine operators, the stimulus which will be given to industries by the cheapening of the fuel cannot be estimated. A readjustment of conditions will be made throughout the South.

Just what may be ultimately expected, the change that has taken place in California predicts. California railroads used 2,000,000 tons of soft coal last year, costing about \$10,000,000. All the roads are now equipping their engines with oil.

It is not permissible to allude to that alleged "insanity trust" in Indianapolis which is now being liquidated.

It was a Republic against an Empire on July 4, 1776. It is an Empire against a Republic on July 4, 1901.

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of barrels of oil that will be required at 7,000,000, costing \$5,000,000.

For some years the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe have used oil on engines and found that a saving of 50 per cent was effected. For the first time in the history of the State, the supply of oil exceeds the demand. It is thought that the California wells are capable of furnishing 8,000,000 barrels annually.

However, this excess of supply over demand cannot last very long. Steamship lines, inland industries and street railway lines will soon absorb the 1,000,000 gallons not used by the railroads. Oil as a permanent fuel is only in its infancy.

JUST FORBEARANCE.

This Government should steadily maintain that position with regard to the payment of the Chinese indemnity which indicates a just desire that the burden placed on the offending nation shall not be made unduly heavy because of international spite or rapacity.

China justly owes to the full the damages arising from the Boxer rebellion and the native outrages in Peking and the Provinces. This is a mere matter of justice, to the administration of which all the Powers interested must inflexibly attend. But justice is one thing and the looting of a helpless nation is quite another.

The United States Government has heretofore been consistently fair in its attitude toward China. It insists upon the payment of its rightful claim against China, but it does not seek to impose oppressive conditions. It is willing to accept a low rate of interest. It is willing to allow China to raise the necessary revenues in the least hurtful manner. There is a dignity and a forbearance in this course which is commendable to a degree. It should be maintained to the close of the Chinese question.

PUSH THE WORK.

There is satisfaction over the announcement by the Board of Public Improvements that bids for the superstructure of the new City Hospital will be opened July 19.

Reports indicate that the foundations for the new buildings are nearly completed. The contracts for the remainder of the work will be let separately. It is estimated that all of the \$238,000 appropriated by the Municipal Assembly for the purpose will be used.

By the law, about \$50,000 additional will be ready for use in the City Hospital in a few weeks. The need for more hospital conveniences is urgent. As the plans for the new building make possible the construction of the pavilions a matter that may be attended to from year to year, no money should be permitted to lie in the city treasury that may properly be devoted to this purpose.

St. Louis County is on the right track in resolving to leave untarnished no stone in the efforts to convict the footpad who murdered A. H. Pirie. Highway robbery has no place in St. Louis or its suburbs.

Those millionaires who reserved the entire upper deck of the Deutschland probably grudgingly permitted to throw the doors open and let the breeze through.

The wireless telegraph is not as great a success as supposed. "Our Chauncey" has been unable to communicate with the public while on his way to Paris.

Old Maximino Gomez urges Estrada Palma as a candidate for first President of Cuba. What's the matter with a man named Maximino Gomez instead?

Obedience to the truths of the Declaration of Independence has made us the greatest Power of earth. Repudiation of those truths will destroy us.

Now that the House of Delegates has passed an appropriation bill, it may be well for the patronage of the city to be distributed according to merit.

Naturally "Corn King" Phillips does not wish to tell all about the corn corner. Every one is not supposed to know as much about it as he does.

Now we are told that General Chaffee is planning an aggressive Philippine campaign. But weren't we also told that the war was ended?

Blessings depend on the point of view. Thunder and lightning and rain yesterday seemed far sweeter than clear skies and undimmed sunlight.

It seems to be the Globe-Democrat's theory that the less proof there is of election frauds the greater the necessity for shouting fraud.

Forest Park is so beautiful as a World's Fair site that it will inspire the World's Fair builders to deeds of surpassing beauty.

Do you agree with the Globe-Democrat to-day that the Signers of the Declaration were hypocrites and political tricksters?

Montana's Governor has pardoned Little Whitebird. Even a big whirlwind might be pardoned during this heated term.

Missouri Day was the greatest day the Buffalo Exposition has yet seen. It had in it the spirit of the World's Fair of 1903.

Take a good look at your children. Or, better still, take a paddle. You may be unable to recognize them twelve hours hence.

This is the Fourth of July. Read the Declaration of Independence and stop to consider whether we are living up to it.

Whenever a weather record is broken this summer, there is the pleasant hope that the next day can't be any worse.

The Declaration of Independence is no more antiquated now than 125 years ago. The truth is never antiquated.

Indianapolis seem to be afraid that the "insanity trust" formed there will throw all of them into the asylum.

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THE TWO SOPRANOS, BERTRAM AND BERRI.

Maude Lillian is ever smiling. She plays when she works, and it is a sad moment indeed when there is a wrinkle in her brow.

She can rehearse all day, sing until 11 p. m. and sup until 2 a. m., with never a shock to her nerves or a furrow to show for it.

She dresses with a tendency to gaudiness—a great, fluffy halitose gown the other night, for example, topped off with a grove of beautiful black feathers.

But Maude Lillian wears these things well—a feat that could not be accomplished by two women in a thousand.

She ought to be more carefully coached in her stage dressing.

Take the red heels. Miss Berri is a trifle too tall for her company. And these red-heeled slippers are the cause.

And that Patience costume on Sunday night. What a marvel mixture of unyielding opposites!

Yet when Maude Lillian sang, all of these things were forgotten. And, after all, we see prima donnas in order that they may hear the music they make, rather than to marvel about their red-heeled slippers and their gowns.

Through many a performance I have watched with real delight the growth of this marvelous young woman's talents. Her great, healthy manner, abounding good nature and silvery voice are in extraordinary combination. You can't say that Miss